

In the Claims:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN- γ), wherein said cardiac hypertrophy is selected from the group consisting of post myocardial infarction hypertrophy, hypertrophy associated with hypertension, aortic stenosis, valvular regurgitation, cardiac shunt and congestive heart failure.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said patient is human.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 30 wherein said IFN- γ is rhIFN- γ -1b.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by myocardial infarction.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said IFN- γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said IFN- γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein said patient is identified as being at risk of developing cardiac hypertrophy prior to said treatment.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said IFN- γ is administered in combination with at least one further therapeutic agent used for the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy or a heart disease resulting in cardiac hypertrophy.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said further therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of β -adrenergic-blocking agents, verapamil, difedipine, and diltiazem.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein said β -adrenergic-blocking agent is a carvedilol, propranolol, metaproterenol, timolol, exprenolol or tertatolol.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered in combination with an antihypertensive drug.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered with an ACE-inhibitor.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered with an endothelin receptor antagonist.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered following the administration of a thrombolytic agent.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said thrombolytic agent is recombinant human tissue plasminogen activator (rht-PA).

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered following primary angioplasty for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction.

49-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A The method of treating cardiac hypertrophy
in a patient claim 30 wherein the cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by a cardiac
disease said hypertrophy associated with hypertension is other than hypertrophic
cardiomyopathy of viral origin, characterized by the presence of an elevated level of
PGF_{2α}, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of
interferon gamma (IFN-γ).

57-59. (Canceled)